

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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9. (twice amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 2:
wherein at least one of said multimedia content records includes at least one
custom tag;
wherein said software engine is configured to read said custom tag;
wherein said custom tag instructs said engine to fetch a corresponding
multimedia content record from said database;
wherein said software engine reads said multimedia content record; and
wherein at least said portion of said content page is passed to an interface
program for display.

Please add the following new claims:

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33. An apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein said programming associated within said programmable data processor comprises a multimedia engine configured to locate and display all of the media elements referred to within a given content page record of said database file.

34. An apparatus as recited in claim 33, wherein said multimedia engine is configured to display media elements within one or more selected windows within said multimedia presentation.

35. An apparatus as recited in claim 34, wherein said multimedia engine is configured to display images within a main normal width display window or an expanded width window.

36. An apparatus as recited in claim 35, wherein said multimedia engine is configured to display images that are too large to comfortably fit either in said main normal width display window, or in said main display expanded width window, and can be stored in a database and displayed in a separate illustration window.

37. An apparatus for providing multimedia tutorials, comprising:
a database containing multimedia content records and references to media files for a multimedia presentation;
a software engine, executable on a computer, said software engine seamlessly

accessing a content record in said database and locating and displaying media elements referred to in that content record;

wherein said software engine does not rely on the execution of individual components or programs which operate independently to display the various media content; and

a user interface upon which content is displayed by said software engine;

a toolbar displayed by said software engine having buttons representing the media elements available within said content record.

38. An apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said software engine includes a reader portion that locates and displays all of the media elements referred to in that record of said database.

39. An apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said media content comprises video, audio, animation, or images.

40. An apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said toolbar provides controls for video media elements, audio media elements, and demonstration media elements.

41. An apparatus as recited in claim 40, wherein said toolbar comprises sequence control buttons for selecting tutorial positioning within said content records.

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42. An apparatus as recited in claim 41, wherein said toolbar comprises a map control button for selecting a map window which displays the current position of the tutorial in the database index as a highlight within said map window, and is configured for allowing the user to select a topic within said map window which the database index is to be adjusted.

43. An apparatus as recited in claim 42, wherein said map window displays tutorial content in a hierarchical form and which is configured for being expanded or collapsed to provide a selected level of detail about the content.

44. An apparatus as recited in claim 37, further comprising a demonstration window displayed by said software engine that may be opened for demonstrating a process being described in said tutorial.
